

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
FEBRUARY 2011

*"NOT JUST A WEED GRANT PROGRAM"*

- 1) ***THE MONTANA WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN***
  - 2000 Original Plan with revisions and updates in 2003, 2005, and 2008
  - 2005 – 8.2 million acres infested with noxious weeds
  - 2008 – 7.6 million acres infested with noxious weeds (600,000 acre reduction)
  - 1985 – 4.5 million acres of spotted knapweed
  - 2008 – 2.8 million acres of spotted knapweed (1.7 million acre reduction)
- 2) ***THE NOXIOUS WEED SEED FREE FORAGE PROGRAM*** (\$100,000 – Operating Budget). Coordinates efforts with counties to certify hay forage and pelleted products for use in Montana backcountry. Inspects hay pelleting manufacturers for compliance with weed laws. MDA staff performs education and outreach.
- 3) ***NOXIOUS WEED COUNCILS – The Department supports three Councils***
  - Noxious Weed Summit Advisory Council
  - Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage Advisory Council
  - Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council (Trust Fund)
- 4) ***NOXIOUS WEED TASK FORCES*** - The Department employees are involved with seven task forces that work with counties to ensure Priority 1B weeds are contained and not spread throughout the state - for example, Hawk Weed and Rush Skeleton Weed.
- 5) ***NOXIOUS WEED TRUST FUND PROGRAMATIC EIS*** - Department funded \$100,000 in FY09 and FY10 through the Weed Program operating budget.
- 6) ***COUNTY WEED COORDINATOR TRAININGS*** - (Fall and Spring)
- 7) ***MONTANA WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION TRAINING***
- 8) ***THE MONTANA NOXIOUS WEED LIST*** - Department hosts the committee and employees participate in the process and publish updates.
- 9) ***FEDERAL AGENCY WEED MANAGEMENT PLANS*** - MDA staff participated in the development of the federal agency statewide plans.
- 10) ***BIO-CONTROL*** – Assist counties and landowners.
- 11) ***NOXIOUS WEED AND AQUATIC WEED IDENTIFICATION*** – Assist counties and landowners.
- 12) ***STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS*** – MDA staff work with Backcountry Horsemen, Montana Snowmobile Assn.

- 13) **EURASIAN WATER MILLFOIL** – MDA staffed inspection stations in 2009 and 2010.
  - MDA staff implemented the EWM management area at Noxon/Cabinet Reservoirs.
  - Coordination of emergency response efforts and assistance to counties
- 14) **WEED CONTROL ACT** – Assist counties with implementation.
- 15) **LEGISLATIVE NOXIOUS WEED BIENNIAL REPORT** – Summarizes noxious weed control by counties, tribes, and state and federal agencies.

## **REGIONAL AND NATIONAL COORDINATION**

- 1) **MISSOURI RIVER WATERSHED COALITION**
  - Six states Memorandum of Agreement.
  - Trust Fund Grant program provided three years funding at \$100,000 (Forest Service) each year.
  - The Center for Invasive Plant Management received a \$1,000,000 grant for bio fuel reduction for Montana. Project includes removing Salt Cedar and Russian Olive plants and converting them to pellets, and provides restoration and revegetation.
- 2) **MONTANA IDAHO BORDER ZONE PROJECT**
  - Coordination and management of Rush Skeleton Weed and Yellow Starthistle.
  - Trust Fund Grant program provided funding at \$100,000 (Forest Service).
- 3) **NORTH AMERICAN WEED MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**
  - Regional development of criteria and guidelines for hay forage and gravel pit operations.
- 4) **WESTERN WEED COORDINATING COMMITTEE**
  - Coordination of western states and federal agencies weed management priorities.
- 5) **HEALTHY HABITAT COALITION**
  - Prioritization of federal agency weed budgets (Forest Service, BLM, BOR, NPS). Current estimates are that 5 cents of every federal weed dollar hits the ground. The goal is to increase this to 25 cents.
  - Request federal funding for states for weed control - \$150 for every centerline mile of interstate and primary roads in Montana - \$7.8 million for Montana.